3.	Mrs. Salem.	In-patient Surgical and Maternity wards and all duties pertaining thereto and medical inspection of school children.
4.	Mrs. Francis.	In-patients' department in the Women's Hospital, Mattancheri, and all duties pertaining thereto and medical inspection of school children.
5.	U. Pappu Ammal.	Out-patients' department of the Women's Hospital and all duties pertaining thereto.
6.	P. Gouri Ammal.	In and Out-patient departments of the Maternity Hospital, Trichur, by turns, and all duties pertaining thereto and medical inspection of school children.
7.	K. Ammukkutti Ammal.	In-and Out-patient departments of the Maternity Hospital, Trichur, by turns, and all duties pertaining thereto.
8.	Miss A. Mathew.	Subordinate medical charge of the female In and Out-patients, in the Kunnamkulam Hospital and all duties pertaining thereto and medical inspection of school children.

APPENDIX III.

(*Vide Answer to Question No. 40.*)

Copy of the Communication.

With reference to your petition regarding the appointment of a lady doctor in Kunnamkulam, I have the honour to inform you that it will be considered when the Government stipendiary lady student passes out in March next.

The grant of a recess during the budget session.

President—Before we proceed with the General Discussion of the Budget, I would like to make a reference to Mr. Mathew's request to me in connection with the sitting arranged for the budget session, that is to say, on what days it would be convenient for us to sit during the budget session. Before I bring to your notice the points of his letter, I may inform you that there was a letter from Mr. Salem, the Member for the Jewish Constituency, that there should be no sitting on Saturday. He first wrote to me as President; that was not the proper course; so he wrote to me as Diwan. I told him in reply that, so far as the suspension of the sitting during the session was concerned, we must be guided by the rules regarding holidays. Saturday is a holiday, no doubt, special to Jews. Of course, there was a question raised by Mr. Kunju Muhammad that Friday should also be recognised as a holiday special to Muhammadans. I think we came to a compromise in regard to that matter. So, I told Mr. Salem that we would re-

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cognise general holidays only, and it would not be convenient to recognise holidays special to particular communities, and I decided that there would be sitting on Saturday also.

Then Mr. Mathew wrote to me, of course, in the right way, as Diwan to consider the matter. I think his letter places all the aspects of the case. This is a matter upon which I would like to consult the opinion of all the members of this Council, because last year I had some doubt on this matter; but holidays intervened, and so we were not called upon to sit continuously for 10 days. Here also there is Sunday intervening. Even then, it may be considered whether we want an interval after two or three days, so that we may prepare ourselves for strenuous work. Mr. Mathew writes as follows:—

"I have the honour to inform you that I understand that the ensuing session of the Legislative Council will continuously sit on all the days of the week, except Sunday, for 10 days, and, in addition to the work connected with the budget, there will be sittings of the Select Committee on certain days which are fixed for the budget discussion. If this is a fact, I may say that this arrangement will cause great inconvenience, trouble and hardship to non-official members especially, and, therefore, I request you to take early action so that no such situation may be created.

"Rules 45, 48 and 49 (1) and (2) and Standing Orders 3, 4 (1), 5 and 6 show that the power of arranging the business of the Council rests with the Diwan, and it is, therefore, that I address you this letter for your kind consideration and immediate action.

"Drawing your attention to Standing Order No. 55, I may state that, at the last budget session, non-official members of the Council had made representation that, as has been done in Travancore, the Council should have an intervening holiday between the day on which the budget is presented and the day fixed for its discussion to begin. In Travancore, this year, not less than two intervening holidays are permitted. All Provincial Councils and the Imperial Legislative Assembly also follow this practice. The object of this is to enable the non-official members to study the subject in view of the observations made by the Finance Member in his speech and to come to an understanding about the motions that should be withdrawn and the motions that should be pressed for discussion; and this, it needs no mention, will expedite the business of the Council. With this in view I had sometimes ago tabled a motion to amend the Standing Order No. 55 in order to make it clear that there shall at least be a holiday between the day on which the budget

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is submitted and the day on which it will be taken up for discussion, but it was not moved, for my non-official friends informed me that, as this matter had already been brought to the attention of the Government, there would be no ground for complaint in the future. From the statement of business of the Council already notified, you will find that the representations of the non-official members on this matter have turned out to be a cry in the wilderness. As the programme has already been published, it is not fair on the part of the non-officials to make any alteration in it at this time.

"Another practice that is being followed by the Provincial Council and the Legislative Assembly is to hold the sittings of the House only three or four days a week. The object of this arrangement is to enable the official members not to suspend their official work for a long time, for if it is so suspended, it will tell upon the efficiency of the administration. The interval will also help them to get themselves better equipped with facts and figures to meet the criticisms of the non-officials. Having sat a few days with the non-official members, the official members will be able to understand where the former are going to concentrate their attention, and this will help them to arm themselves better. Speaking from the side of the non-officials who have to attend to their professional work, they can do it on the intervening days. If the sittings of the Council are arranged continuously for a number of days, it will bring into conflict the professional work to which the non-officials have to attend and the responsible work which they have to discharge as the chosen representatives of the people. To explain by an illustration, a doctor who is a non-official member of the Council will not be doing justice to his professional work, if he leaves his station for a number of days consecutively, when he has many patients to attend to. The same is the case with those who are engaged in educational work, legal profession, agriculture and so forth. The present arrangement to hold the sitting continuously for a long time will, therefore, seriously handicap non-officials in discharging their duties in the Council.

"From the published programme of the ensuing budget session of the Travancore Council, you can know that the Travancore Council also will be following the practice of the Provincial Councils and the Legislative Assembly.

"We have another weighty reason to follow the practice referred to above. In our Council there are two non-official Jews, and a non-official Muhammadan, and they have already brought to the attention of the Council that the members of their communities should not be called upon by the Government to

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attend to work on days which are important to them, from a religious stand-point. Our Government have been very sympathetic in respecting such reasonable requests, and I trust you will also be good enough to follow that line of action, which is necessary for the harmonious progress of different communities in our State. As a Christian, I feel that the State should not put any obstacles in the religious observances of my community which are reasonable, and in the same way, I should feel for other communities.

"Except the three dates, namely the 11th, 12th and 13th of Karkadagam, the dates on which the Council will sit have not yet been notified, and so there will be no difficulty for you to arrange for intervening holidays. The only objection that can likely be raised against this is from the financial side. According to the present rules, T. A. will be given only once for every metting, and so its consideration does not arise. Regarding daily *batta*, which only remains to be considered, the present rules permit local (Ernakulam) members to draw daily *batta* only on the days they attend the Council. The question of finance therefore, reduces itself to the payment of the daily *batta* of the mofussil non-official members for the intervening holidays. The advantages and good feeling that will result from the arrangement of intervening holidays will far outweigh the paltry financial expenditure.

"I humbly request you to pay your early and earnest attention to this matter and be good enough to let me know your decision on Monday the 26th July 1926, at Ernakulam, before the Council resumes work."

Well, the financial aspect does not affect the Government at all. For the present you may leave that question aside. Now, coming to the matter in hand, we continuously sit for 10 days, and the rules lay down that 10 days alone should be allotted for the budget session. The first day the budget is to be presented. For the following two days we should engage in the general discussion of the budget; and for the remaining days we have to proceed with the consideration of the demands for grants. That is the rule. This is only a representation made by one individual member; and I would like to know the opinion of the Council in a matter like this. Because, whatever may be the inconvenience of a person, I do not think it proper that the members as a body should be put to any inconvenience on account of the continuous sitting. So, I shall bestow great consideration on this matter; and for that purpose I placed before you for your remarks the several points raised in the letter. So far as the official members here are concerned, I can say one thing. They would rather like to

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have the business done at one stretch, because they have to attend to various important businesses, and their detention will obviously interfere with their official duties. I had representations from more than one official member that the number of days should be reduced, instead of being prolonged. So far as the convenience of the official members are concerned, it will be to their advantage to have the sitting continued from day to day, Sunday being excepted. Then, so far as the professional members are concerned, a good many of them are vakils, and this being the last month of the year, we know to what difficult situation they are subject to. Of course, I know the moment they ask for an adjournment of their cases on account of the Council sitting, the Judges will at once say: "Your work here is more important than your Council work. We are not concerned with the Council." Thus they have to attend to the cases, and members who are vakils cannot say anything to the Judges. So far as professional men are concerned, I certainly think that men coming from distant places such as Chittur, I mean members like Dr. Govinda Menon, will also be put to considerable inconvenience, and they will also like to have the business done at one stretch, instead of it being conducted at intervals.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—I tell you, Sir, that the latter arrangement is more inconvenient. While we come here, we make arrangements with others to look after our business, and if the sessions are to be prolonged, it will tell upon us more.

President.—I have anticipated your inconvenience, and I thought that such a complaint would arise. മിസ്റ്റർ മുണ്ടശ്ശേരിക്കു ഇതിനെപ്പറ്റി വല്ലതും പറയാനുണ്ടോ?

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. മുണ്ടശ്ശേരി.—ഒന്നുമില്ല. അവിടുന്നു തീർച്ചയാക്കുന്നതുപോലെ.

Mr. S. F. Nunez.—Sir, I have to go back to-morrow.

President.—That means absence from the Council sittings for some days. How are you going to do justice to the Council work?

Mr. S. F. Nunez.—I presume that I shall not fall sick and I will return.

President.—I asked you. That is all. I do not want to take advantage of that.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—He is only a nominated member. Mr. Mathew's letter may be printed and circulated among us, Sir.

President.—We shall consider about it.

Dr. A.G. Menon.—One side only we have heard. All these are newmatters, and we are not such great men as to be able to reply immediately, and that is why I suggest that.

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Dr. A. R. Menon.—The point raised is this. Some members have their professional duties to discharge. The members ought to realise that their professional business will be interfered with by the work in the Council, and those who do not desire to sacrifice their work should not stand as members of this Council. Those who come here for honour, and those who have other work must also be prepared to risk everything, and if circumstances do not allow them to work under such conditions, the only proper course left open to them is to express their inability to carry on their work here and to tender their resignation. I cannot, however, help saying that the Government can do something at least. We all know, as a matter of fact, that the Law Court is a Government institution, and the Government can very well issue an order to the effect that those vakils who are members should not be worried with cases during Council sessions. This is the only recommendation I would place before you to give some relief to the vakils.

President.—In the case of vakils, do you say that their cases should be adjourned during the Council sitting?

Mr. M. Krishna Menon.—In the matter of old cases, we make other arrangements. For new cases the courts would consider favourably requests for adjournment for these 10 days. That is my experience. I know about the date of the Council sitting earlier, and I get the cases posted accordingly.

President.—Can't you arrange for a sitting of ten days together?

Mr. M. Krishna Menon.—An interval of one or two days will not make any difference.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—It will not be the same case with those who come from other places.

Mr. M. Krishna Menon.—In my case, if my presence is absolutely necessary, I make other arrangements. Judicial Officers in the Bench have not only to sit but have to write too, and that throughout the whole year. Munsiffs also sit from 11 o'clock to 5 o'clock. We are also paid Rs. 5 a day.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—With regard to the trouble of vakils, whatever may be the experience of Mr. Krishna Menon, I want to bring to the notice of this House that we find it very difficult during the session to manage with our work. When cases are filed and written statements are put in, the Judges and the Munsiffs are very reluctant to give us leave. I understand there has been an order from the Chief Court not to grant leave to vakils. Munsiffs and Judges alike are refusing us leave now. That is my experience. I do not know how it is

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in the District Magistrate's Court. In our Civil Courts it is very difficult.

President.—Is there any objection for you to leave off your Council work?

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—Then there will be no use of my being a member here. Unless I follow the proceedings, there is no use of my coming here.

President.—When you are relieved of your work, come and attend.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—I am only requesting the Government to issue orders to the Judges for granting us leave.

President.—He is not only referring to the inconvenience of vakils, but he wants the Government to ask the Judges to grant them leave. That is a matter of discretion, and it will not be proper on the part of the Government to interfere in their discretion. We must realise that the Judges are exercising a very important and principal function. They are doing their duty to the public, and therefore, we should not put any trouble in their way so as to prevent their work being done.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Would it be possible for the Government to see their way to hint to the courts to grant leave whenever applications are received from vakils during the Council sessions?

President.—Judges should pay attention to this case and that case. So this is a matter left to their discretion. It will not be proper on our part to interfere with their discretion.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—We can bring an appeal to the Law Courts, and Council sittings can be made holidays to vakils attending sessions.

President.—Mr. Sankaran Nambudiri also is a business man. Let us also have his opinion.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—If the place of meeting is transferred to Trichur, there will not be much complaint. As for officials, they can take their own time to suit their own convenience. We people coming from long distances have not even a proper place to house us here. If it is transferred to Trichur, it will be more convenient.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—I strongly support it, Sir.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—At least a copy of the discussion here may be forwarded to the Chief Court.

President.—The members have enlightened me with their views on the subject.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I could not stand upon that. My only request is that, if Saturday intervenes, and if there is a motion that stands in the name of a Jewish member, that may be considered only the next day.

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President.—There must be a sort of order.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I only make a modest request.

President.—We cannot say on what particular day the motion will come.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I only request for an adjournment of the motion which stands in my name on Saturday to another day.

President.—Let us now proceed with the General Discussion of the Budget.

The General Discussion of the Budget.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—The general discussion of the budget gives an opportunity to the Legislature to review the previous year's administration and to give guidance to the coming year. The State, whatever its form may be, monarchical or republican, should stand for the good and prosperity for the people in general. An ideal Government, according to modern democratic ideas, exists where the Legislature which is the epitome of the peoples' mind controls the Executive, which is to carry out the decisions of the Legislature, while the Judiciary is to keep the balance between the two and is to administer justice fearlessly between man and man. A year's experience of the new era of administration in Cochin which began with the inauguration of the Cochin Legislative Council makes me bold to say that the Legislature is only an ornamental toy in the hands of the Executive, while the Judiciary is admittedly for a long time occupying only a subordinate position in the body-politic of the State. A review of an year's administration after the inauguration of this Council will justify this statement of mine with regard to the relative position of the various bodies referred to above under the constitution of the Cochin Legislative Council.

The Council is competent to reduce grants, but is incompetent to propose a new grant or to alter the destination of a grant. Moreover, the Government has taken care too fence off innumerable heads of revenue and the expenditure as too sacred for the vote of this Council. "Thus far shalt thou go and no further" is printed in italics for our guidance. The last budget was passed by this Council without the reduction of a single item except the sum of rupee one on a token motion on the Excise policy of the State. A superficial observer may perhaps say that this fact indicates that the executive machinery is perfect, but to me it appears that the cause lies deeper, and everybody who contributes to this must feel ashamed of the performance.

Even at the risk of being misunderstood, I must strike a note of warning to my brother members of this Council. Ever

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